

**Parent Information Network  
Arizona Department of Education  
Exceptional Student Services**

**KEY ELEMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

1. Create a vision of effective family/parent Involvement for your school **EXAMPLES:**  
Assess parent and staff attitudes about parent involvement Consider the roles that families and teachers currently play  
Have families and staff determine a reasonable action plan for future involvement and routinely evaluate progress and effectiveness
2. Meet parents where they are (according to their awareness level and ability to commit themselves) **EXAMPLES:**  
Get to know your families  
Practice good communication skills, including active listening Respect all levels of commitment and support offered  
The age level of their child may have some bearing on how much they participate
3. Take time to actively listen to the needs the parent is expressing **EXAMPLES:**  
Meet parents at mutually agreeable times and locations as needed throughout the school year  
Build school/community partnerships to meet the needs of families  
Refer them to family support resources in your school or community Hold community resource forums Create school site parent centers  
Plan staff in-services to help teachers address the needs of their students and families, including seeking community support
4. Be aware of and respect cultural diversity **EXAMPLES:**  
Learn more about the different cultures represented in your classroom  
Include a variety of cultural representation on planning teams or in leadership roles in parent groups Sponsor cultural fairs  
Arrange for interpreters or bilingual presenters. Offer bilingual print, audio and video resources
5. Use a variety of vehicles for communication systems **EXAMPLES-**  
Teachers can give parents their work phone number and let them know when the best time to call would be Use voice messaging  
Send home brief progress reports in between report cards  
Use teacher newsletters describing class activities and study focus